take remedial action. The performance of RRBs has improved considerably as the percentage of their gross NPAs and Net NPAs has reduced from 8.53% and 4.84% respectively as on 31st March, 2005 to 6.49% and 3.44% respectively as on 31st March, 2007. The recovery percentage has improved from 77.67% in 2004-05 to79.80% in 2006-07. The Net Worth of RRBs as a whole has increased from Rs. 3,466.25 crore as on 31st March, 2005 to Rs. 4,545.86 crore as on 31st March, 2007.

(b) Sponsor banks have been given the responsibility for improving the performance of RRBs. As per the provisions of RRB Act, 1976, the sponsor bank depute Chairman and other senior personnel to RRBs for their effective functioning. The sponsor banks also provide legal, financial, technical and other expertise to RRBs. Boards of RRB are independent of sponsor bank and have been vested with powers to take decisions within the framework/ laid down policies of Government of India, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD. NABARD has reported that they have not come across any complaint from the RRBs about dominance of Sponsor Bank or any difficulty experienced by them either in the matter of independence or working of the Bank.

(c) Does not arise.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial

*278. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give corpus fund for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

Marine aquarium at Puri in Orissa

*279. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa proposes to set up a state-of-the-art marine aquarium at Puri to boost tourism in this region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Central Government to help the State to successfully execute this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territories themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance on the basis of project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that

are complete in all respect as per scheme guidelines, approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head every year under the following schemes:

(i) Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
(ii) *Large Revenue Generating projects*
(iii) Fairs and festivals/Events
(iv) Information Technology

No proposal has been submitted by the State Government to Ministry of Tourism for setting up of marine aquarium at Puri in Orissa.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned tourism projects to the tune of Rs. 7235.39 lakh and Rs. 2327.05 lakh for the State of Orissa in the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) and in 2007-2008 respectively. A list of sanctioned projects is given in the Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Projects sanctioned to the state of Orissa during the Tenth Plan (2002-2007)

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
	2002-03	
1.	Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur	50.00
2.	Computerisation of office and its Groups	7.50
	Total	57.50
	2003-04	
1.	Development of Puri as a Tourist desination	394.55
2.	Konark Festival, 2002	5.00
3.	Folk Dance Festival, 2003-04	5.00
4.	Rajarani Music Festival, 2003-04	5.00
5.	Buddha Mahotsav	10.00
	Total	419.55
	2004-05	
1.	Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda) under Dest. Development	488.51
2.	Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa—Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit	740.67
3.	Shreekshetra Vasant Festival at Puri	15.00
4.	Kharvela Festival, 2004s-05	5.00
5.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Software)	20.00

S.No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
6.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Raghurajpur in Puri Distt. (Software)	20.00
7.	Development of Village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Hardware)	50.00
	Total	1339.18
	2005-06	
1.	Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea (Distt. Ganjam)	447.22
2.	Development of Sakhi Gopal (Distt. Puri)	460.96
3.	Development of Taptapani in Distt. Ganjam as Tourist Destination	500.00
4.	Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Bhubaneswar-Dhauli-Puri-Konark	720.09
5.	Development of Chilka Lake (Distt. Puri and Ganjam) as Tourist Destination	389.05
6.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj	50.00
7.	Shreekshetra Festival at Puri	15.00
8.	Puri Beach Festival, 2005	4.00
9.	Konark Festival, 2005	3.00
10.	Rajrani Festival, 2005 at Bhubaneswar	3.00
	Total	2592.32
	2006-07	
1.	Development of Simlipal on Distt. Mayurbhanj as a tourist destination	297.12
2.	Puri Beach Festival, 2006	05.00
3.	Konark Festival, 2006	05.00
4.	Ekamra Utsav, 2007	10.00
5.	Shreekshetra Vasant Utsav, 2006	10.00
6.	Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talsari-Udaypur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchlingeswar-Nilagiri Circuit	800.00
7.	Development of Village Barpali, Distt. Baragarh, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
8.	Development of Village Hirapur, Distt. Khurda, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
9.	Development of Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
10.	Development of Village Deulajhari, Distt. Angul, Rural Tourism (Hardware)	50.00
11.	Integrated Development of Koraput Circuit "Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar" as a tourist circuit in Orissa	692.00
12.	Development of Eco-Tourism at Bhitarkanika	383.22
13.	Development of Satkosia as a Tourist Destination in Orissa	424.50
	Total	2826.84

Statement-II

Projects sanctioned to the state of Orissa in 2007-2008

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of Project/Scheme	Amount sanctioned
1.	Development of Orissa Tourism information Portal under the scheme of Information Technology	42.50
2.	Development of Mahanadi Central Heritage, Distt. Cuttack under Destination Development Scheme	393.75
3.	Development of Kapilas-Joranda-Saptasajya as a tourist destination in Orissa	287.84
4.	Development of Sonapur-Khandapara-Narsinghpur-Cuttack-Paradeep as Tourist Circuit in Orissa	463.60
5.	Development of Harishankar-Nrusinghnath-Ranipurjarial as Tourist Circuit in Orissa	650.21
6.	Development of Silk Route Circuit in Ganjam as Tourist destination	431.15
7.	Organising of All India Paika Akhada Exhibition Utsav—2008	5.00
8.	Golden Beach Festival at Chandipur-on-Sea, 2008	3.00
9.	Gurukul of Konark Natya Manadap, Konark, Distt. Puri	50.00
	Total	2327.05

Tourism infrastructure for World Heritage Sites in the country

*280. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has identified creation of tourism infrastructure at World Heritage Sites as a priority and efforts are being made to have better coordination with the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Railways, Surface Transport and Urban Development and respective State Governments to execute these projects expeditiously;

(b) whether her Ministry has discussed the issue with Prime Minister on the areas where better coordination was required among various Central Ministries for promotion of tourism and betterment of related infrastructure in the country; and

(c) what are the concrete steps and measures taken to facelift the World Heritage Sites in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism is a Member of the Committee on Infrastructure chaired by the Prime Minister.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned projects for improvement of infrastructurement at tourist places in the country including monuments at World Heritage sites like Agra, Bodhgaya, Delhi, Fatehpur Sikri, Hampi, Khajuraho, Mamallapuram and Sanchi.

A media campaign to promote the World Heritage Sites in the domestic market was launched in 2006-07. The Ministry of Tourism also promotes and publicises World Heritage Sites through campaigns in the print, internet and electronic media. In addition, Ministry of Tourism is running a Social Awareness Campaign against graffiti and garbage at tourist sites/monuments including World Heritage Sites.